

An Humble  
**DECLARATION**  
To the Right Honourable the  
Lords and Commons in Parliament  
Assembled, touching the transportation of  
Gold and Silver, and other abuses practi-  
sed upon the Coynes and Bullion of  
this Realme: presented the 12<sup>th</sup>  
day of April, 1643.

Wherein is Declared the great mischeifes  
that have befallen the Common-wealth,  
by the above-said misdemeanours.

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By  
THOMAS VIOLET of *London* Gold-Smith.

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London Printed by R. J. 1845

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**M**AY it please this Honour-  
 able Assembly, to take in-  
 to their consideration, the  
 great mischiefes and incon-  
 veniences that have hapned  
 unto this Kingdome, and  
 most especially since the first yeer of his Ma-  
 jesties Reigne, by the exporting of Gold  
 and Silver into Forreigne parts, to the in-  
 estimable damage of the Common-wealth, by  
 the great abuses of many Gold-Smiths and  
 others, in culling and sorting the heaue cur-  
 rent Coines of this Kingdome, to the end  
 to transport or melt down the same; and in  
 buying and selling Gold and Silver above the  
 price of the Mint; by which meanes they  
 fore-stall the Mint, and with the Gold and

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Silver thus bought, for the most part furnish Merchants and others to transport the same, being either the species and peeces of Forreinge Gold and Silver, or the current Coins of Gold and Silver of this Kingdome.

Which Offences being of a high and transcendent nature, and such as by the Judgment of Parliament, 5 *Richard 2. chap. 2.* tend to the ruine and destruction of the Common-wealth; for which causes all former ages have been very carefull to prevent these mischiefs.

And neverthelesse the covetousnesse of many men hath been such, that notwithstanding all these Laws and severall proceedings, and Sentences had and given against them in an extraordinary way in the Court of *Star-chamber*; They have of late yeeres transported so much Gold out of the Kingdome, that as it is credibly conceived by those that pay and receive great summes of money, there is not the tenth part of the  
Gold



Gold left, that was in the Stock of this Kingdome in the beginning of his now Majesties Reigne, so that our new and old Gold is ten times more plentiful in *France* and in *Flanders* than it is with us in *England*, to the unspeakable losse of this Kingdome.

That in the Ninth, Tenth and Eleventh yeer of his now Majesties Reigne, His Majestie being informed, and taking notice of the plenty of *English* Gold and Coines current in *France*, and of the abuses and disorders above mentioned, befalling the Coyne and Bullion of the Kingdome, and taking the same into serious consideration, by the advice of His Privie Councell directed, that the transporters of Gold or Silver, the melters down of the current Silver Coynes of this Kingdome, the buyers and sellers of Gold and Silver at above the price of the Mint, their Agents Instruments and Assistants, should with all diligence be found and severely punished, ac-

cording to the Laws: which care of His (and those that endeavored therein ) nevertheless for some time tooke no effect: and notwithstanding it was generally conceived and understood ( as the truth was ) that great quantities of Gold were weekly carried into *France*; yet were the Instruments used therein so few and secret , and the wayes and means for the transporting the same so cunningly and closely contrived, that the same could not either by the intercepting of Letters, or by the Merchants or Factors Books of accompts, or the Books of the Gold-Smiths ( as formerly it had been in the case of the *Dutchmen*, about the year 1618. ) be found out or discerned, for the Letters were for the most part written in Cyphers and Characters, and subscribed and signed by strange and unknown names , and yet well known to the Factors and Correspondents; and for the contents of the Letters, they made mention of *Needles, Blades, Gloves, Rib-*

*Ribbon, roles of Tobacco, and such like things* to be sent over, and meant by those names: and for the accompts, the same was entred in the accompts kept of Exchangers, so that no man upon perusal of such Books, could finde any other thing mentioned but Bills of Exchange: others kept double accompts; and such as had been lesse warie and close, presently upon the first report of the first that was questioned touching transportation, cancelled and defaced all such Books as could any wayes manifest their dealings in the same; and though divers Merchants Books of accompts were seized on, by order from the Lords of the Privie-Councell, and under Examination in the Hands of *Sr. John Bankes* His Majesties then Attorney Generall, *Mr. Diconson* and *Mr. Trumball* then Clerkes of his Majesties Councell, and divers others, yet nothing could be proved by their Bookes.

Now His Majestie and the Lords finding  
 B 3 that

that the abuses and offences above mentioned, were acted by, and passed through so many hands, and grown to such a height that the same could not be reformed without exemplarie punishment, and considering the discovery and prosecution of all offences of this nature so secretly and cunningly contrived as aforesaid, would very hardly (if at all) be discovered and found out with any diligence of such as were not acquainted with the said contrivances:

Hereupon this Declarant, being by some detected before the Lords of His Majesties Privie Councell, to be a transporter of Gold and Silver; and therefore suffered a long imprisonment (with perill of his life, and losse of much of his estate, abroad and here) was by His Majestie and divers Lords of the said Councell commanded and enjoined to attend and prosecute in this businesse of transportation of Gold, for the service of His Majestie and the Common-wealth; for which  
he

he was to receive his enlargement, with promise of his Pardon.

And further, to more encourage him therein, a promise in his Majesties name was declared by the then Lord Keeper *Coven-try*, Mr. Secretary *Cooke*, and other officers of State, that this Declarant, besides his enlargement and pardon, should aswell have satisfaction of such money as he should expend in the discovery and prosecution of Delinquents for the foresaid offences, as also to receive a reward for his time taken and spent in this service, out of the Fines of such Delinquents as should by other testimonies then of this Declarant be proved to be offenders: Upon which Commands and Promises of the Kings Majesty, and to preserve and keep himselfe from the evils then depending on him, he undertooke this service, as *St. John Banks* now chiefe Justice of his Majesties Court of *Common Pleas*, *St. John Cooke*, besides divers others of honour and quality, very well know.

And

And thereupon this Declarant attending his Majesties said Attorney aswell with such names as this Declarant had presented touching the premises, as with such as some others had named for transporters; soon after, his Majesties said Attorney, 22 June 11<sup>o</sup>. Car. filed a Bill in the *Star-chamber* against divers persons that had offended touching the premises and after, the 30<sup>th</sup> of the said June, another Information was exhibited against other offenders in the *Star-chamber*.

That both these Informations were prosecuted in the *Star-chamber*, and brought to sentence by the great care and diligence of his Majesties said Attorney, as this Remonstrant humbly conceiveth; but so as all the endeavours and labours of making the discovery, and finding out the witnesses, and bringing them from *France* and other places, and the charges thereof, rested wholly upon this Declarant, and all other necessary Fees for Counsell and other attendances was disbur-  
fed

led by this Remonstrant, for no other person disbursed one penny in or about the said service; in the prosecution of which service, and to bring fourteene offenders to be censured in the *Star-chamber*, besides three which were Pardoned by His Majesty; it cost the Declarant above 2000<sup>l</sup>. above six yeers since disbursed, there having been examined in Court above one hundred Witnesses, found and brought up at this Declarants proper cost and charges as aforesaid, and about three yeers time spent in the daily attendance of that service.

Both these Informations, by the continuall attendance charge and industry of this Declarant, and the great and due care of his Majesties then Attorney, were (notwithstanding many difficulties, in respect of some witnesses to bee found and brought out of *France*, ) made fit and brought to hearing in the *Star-chamber*, within the space of about a yeere and a halfe, viz. in *Hillary*

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Terme in the twelfth yeere of His now Ma-  
 jesties Reigne; and there were found guilty,  
 and censured by the Lords, such persons and  
 such Fines set upon them as follow, *viz.*

25 Jan. 12 Car. In the first Cause. 17 February 12 Car.  
 In the second Cause.

Charles Franke	4000 <sup>l</sup>	Peter Herna	2000 <sup>l</sup>
Robert Ellis	4000 <sup>l</sup>	Jo. Terry	2000 <sup>l</sup>
Isaac Romeere	3000 <sup>l</sup>	Timothy Eman	2000 <sup>l</sup>
Jacob Delew	1000 <sup>l</sup>	Isaac Brames	1000 <sup>l</sup>
Roger Fletcher	1000 <sup>l</sup>	Henry Futter	500 <sup>l</sup>
Rich. Cockram	1000 <sup>l</sup>	Henry Sweeting	500 <sup>l</sup>
John Parrat	2000 <sup>l</sup>	John Perrin	100 <sup>l</sup>

The totall of the said Fines amount to the  
 summe of 24100<sup>l</sup>.

St. John Wollaston Knight, and William  
 Gibs Esquire, both Aldermen of the City of  
 London, being informed against in this In-  
 formation,

formation, by his Majesties then Attorney Generall; procured his Majesties gracious Pardon, and so were discharged.

Many others there were that were Delinquents, and charged by the said Bill, besides those who were sentenced, some whereof were taken off by order of the Lords, as charged only with selling Silver above the price of the Mint, and *Peter Fountaine* who was informed against for transporting of Gold, procured his pardon upon payment of 1100<sup>l</sup>.

After all these proceedings at this Declarants cost and expences, the Delinquents being fined at 24100<sup>l</sup>. this Declarant being informed that there was way made by the Merchants to some of the Lords to have these Fines mitigated, and them installed in a manner to nothing, (divers Merchants and others informing the Lords, that it was no prejudice to the Common-wealth to transport Gold and Silver) hereupon this

Declarant attended the Lord Keeper *Cowen-*  
*try* and Mr. Secretary *Coke*, and they ac-  
 quainted His Majestie therewith, and told  
 His Majesty, that if the Fines were mitiga-  
 ted, it would but in effect give license to  
 transport Gold and Silver, and desired His  
 Majesty to signifie His pleasure to the Lords,  
 that the offenders should be committed to the  
*Fleet* if they would not pay their Fines, and  
 not goe at liberty as they did: Whereupon  
 His Majesty was pleased to send a Message  
 to the Lords in *Star-chamber* by the Earle of  
*Holland*, that His Majesties pleasure was, that  
 the transporters of Gold should pay their  
 Fines imposed on them by the Lords in  
*Star-chamber*, or else the Warden of the  
*Fleet* to take them into custodie; and that  
 there should be no mitigation of their Fines,  
 for that would but encourage the transpor-  
 tations of Gold and Silver, by which means  
 no treasure would be left in the Kingdome:  
 notwithstanding which expresse Command  
 from

from His Majestie, (though this mitigation was forborne for a while) yet shortly after the said offenders managed their businesse in that manner, that they got themselves off the 24100<sup>l</sup>. for 1720<sup>l</sup>. and 1100<sup>l</sup>. more Mr. *Fountaine* paid; in all 2820<sup>l</sup>. onely *John Parrat* his Fine, who was a chiefe Instrument in the discovery of these offenders, remained on him still without mitigation at all.

By which the transporting of Gold and Silver hath rather been sleighted and licensed then hindred, it having cost this Declarant more in the prosecution than was payd in by the said mitigation; the effect of which mitigation in manner aforesaid, hath been, that many of those who transported Gold before the filing of these two Bills, have since followed it more than ever, as this Declarant beleeveth, knowing they can get more in a moneth by transporting of Gold into *France* and *Flanders*, than they shall pay according

to like mitigation to get off, were it proved against them.

In the time of this employment (by His Majesties Command) the Declarant did receive divers interruptions in the prosecution of the transporting of Gold and Silver, and was imprisoned and detained close prisoner for many dayes, by one *Mesly* and *Stockdale* Messengers, by warrant signed under Mr. Secretary *Windebanks* hand, onely for proceeding against transporters of Gold and Silver.

And some others, in doing their duties in seizing Gold and Silver water-borne, according to severall Statutes, have been sued and imprisoned to their great oppressions, contrary to the Lawes of this Kingdome.

That soon after these two Bills already censured in the *Star-chamber*, at this Declarants cost, his Majesties then Attorney Sr. *John Bankes* filed a third Bill against transporters of Gold and Silver, and for melting  
downe

downe the heavy current silver Coynes of this Kingdome ; but by reason of the great charge and disbursements to bring the two former Bills to sentence, the Declarant was unable to proceede any further till he could receive satisfaction from his Majesty, according to His promise to this Declarant, for the moneys he had disbursed in that service, which this Declarant did from time to time sue for.

First expecting the same out of the said Fines according to the said Declaration, untill such time as the same was reduced to the small mitigation, as aforesaid, and that all disposed to his Majesties service : whereupon this Declarant was inforced to Petition his Majesty for satisfaction according to His Promise formerly made to this Declarant, as aforesaid ; which Petition His Majesty 10<sup>th</sup> March 1638. referred to the now Bishop of London then Lord Treasurer, the Lord Cottington, and Sr. John Coke, principall  
Se-

Secretary, who calling unto them Sr. *John Banks* his Majesties then Attorney Generall, were to consider thereof, and make report to His Majesty in their opinions what satisfaction they thought fit to be allowed for his service; but their Lordships, though often therein attended by this Declarant, and moved therein by Sr. *John Coke* (who had principall charge from His Majesty touching this service) to take the said Petition into their considerations; yet nothing was therein done by their Lordships, to his great damage and discouragement to proceede further in this service, that so much concerned the Common-wealth, and all trade; and thereupon the Declarant being disabled thus, all proceedings upon the third Bill ceased.

That besides the fourteene offenders sentenced in *Star-chamber* & pardoned, as aforesaid, there are many other Merchants, Goldsmiths and others, that have transported Gold and Silver out of the Kingdome, that have



have sold Gold and Silver ~~at~~ above the price of the Mint, that have furnished much light gold, English and Forraigne, and great quantities of Gold and Silver to Merchants and others to transport, that have culled and melted downe the weightiest current Silver Coines, as shillings, sixpences and half crowns, all which offences are against the common Lawes of the Kingdome, and severall Proclamations, as may appeare by what shall be hereafter declared: which Laws for the discovery and prosecution appoint, that such as prosecute and bring to discovery any of the aforesaid offences, are to have a moyitie of what they can prove to be transported, as what they seize, and to be water-borne to transport: And the wisdom and policie of State hath, upon free and generall Pardons at Parliaments, exempted it out of the free pardon, thereby the more to terrifie and restraîne men from venturing in that kind, to transport gold or silver, or to melt  
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down the current silver coynes of the Kingdome.

That divers Gold-smiths of *London* are become Exchangers of Bullion of gold and silver, and buy it of Merchants and others, pretending to carry it to the Mint; but indeed they are the greatest instruments for transporting that are; and, in a manner, they are only those who furnish transporters with English and forreigne gold, Spanish money, Rix-dollers, Pistollets, Cardacues; culling and melting down the current silver coynes of this Realme for plate and silver thread: and no doubt, when a true representation of the abuses of such Gold-smiths, Finers, and Wyre-drawers, as hath been formerly, and is daily practised by many of them, shall be made appeare; this Declarant doubterh not but this high Court will think fit to take the same into consideration, and provide some meanes to restrain them from doing the Common-wealth that damage as formerly hath been done.

That

That some of the Gold-smiths make it their use and practice to buy light English gold of shop-keepers and others, which by the Laws of this Kingdome, wanting beyond remedy, ought to be bought as Bullion, and upon the sale, ought to be defaced, and new-coyned in the Mint: But they take another way; for they sell all this gold to transport, though it want 4. 5. or 6 graines above the allowance, and that a 20<sup>s</sup>. peece will not make 19<sup>s</sup>. to be coyned in the Mint; yet the Gold-smiths will not abate above 2<sup>d</sup>. or 3<sup>d</sup>. and sometimes but 1<sup>d</sup>. in the peece, let the gold want what it will; by which means they out-give the Mint: And the gold which the Gold-smiths buy of the Subjects, thinking it is to carry to the Mint to be new-coyned to passe in current payment, they put it into a dead Sea, never to be made use of in our Common-wealth: For weekly *French* and *English* have bought up this gold, let it be as light as it will, at 19<sup>s</sup>, 9<sup>d</sup>. 19<sup>s</sup>, 10<sup>d</sup>.

and 19<sup>s</sup>, 11<sup>d</sup>. and so after that rate for all other gold, to the value of many hundred thousand pounds; for by the Gold-smiths rule, the Mint is alwayes last served, as being the worst Chapman, and giving least for it; for after all hands are full, both for transporters, Plate-workers, Finers, and Wyre-drawers; then that, which they cannot vent otherwise, commeth into the Mint; which the Officers of the Mint know very well: and if gold and silver never came into the Gold-smiths hands, (which Merchants sell to them, beleeving they carry it all to be coyned) far more gold and silver would come into the Mint, than now doth.

For, many thousand of dollers and Spanish money they furnish yearely Merchants with, that trade for *Norway* and *Denmarke* and other parts, to transport silver for those parts, to the great weakning of the stock of this Kingdome, and hindrance of the sale of our wollen commodities, which (before that  
per-

pernitious way was found out) those Countries vented much of. Besides the hindrance of the sale of our commodities, the King is hindred of his Custome; for the Merchants drive a trade inward and outward, and so pay the King no custome: For instance; *Hambrough*-Merchants bring great quantities of Rix-dollers from *Hambrough* and other parts of *Germany*, and pay no Custome, because the State hath ever made gold and silver free to be imported without Custome, which the Merchants usually sell to the Gold-smiths, and the Gold-smiths for the most part sell to the Merchants that trade in *Norway* and *Denmarke*: which dollers are closely packed in some part of the ship, and so no Custome paid, either for bringing in the silver, or sending it out; and no commodities, in a manner, other than silver, are transported into those parts by the said Merchants, considering the quantity of their returne; For what they want in goods exported from

hence, they must make up in money: If great returns of commodities from *Norway* and *Denmarke*, and few commodities exported from hence, the Ballance must be made up with silver; for no Nation will give us commodities; but there must be a ballance for goods imported, by goods exported, or by treasure.

That from the yeare 1621. many Goldsmiths and Casheers of *London* culled the weighty shillings and six-pences, to make into plate, silver-wyre, and to other manufactures: for most of that time, we having warres with *Spaine*, little or no silver came from thence; so likewise hath little or no silver from *France* in that time: and no silver could be brought out of *Holland*, by reason it went so high by Plachart; for Starling-silver passed in *Holland* for 4<sup>d</sup> per ounce higher than it made in our Mint, sterling being in *Holland* at 5<sup>s</sup>. 4<sup>d</sup>. per ounce; so that no silver could be imported from *Holland* to supply our mint:  
which

which the Gold-smiths and others percei-  
 ving, presently fell a culling the silver mo-  
 neyes current : and the money being coyn-  
 ed in the mint at 5<sup>s</sup>. 2<sup>d</sup>. the Goldsmiths,  
 Finers, and Wyre-drawers did raise it up to  
 5<sup>s</sup>. 3<sup>d</sup>. *per* ounce, and melted down all the  
 weighty shillings and sixpences, and left none  
 to passe betwixt man and man, but light mo-  
 neies and clipped ; and did exceed the rate  
 of the mint, by giving for Starling 5<sup>s</sup>. 3<sup>d</sup>. *per*  
 ounce, and 5<sup>s</sup>. 3<sup>d</sup>. 1<sup>2</sup>. *per* ounce, and sometimes  
 more : by which meanes there was no silver  
 brought into the mint for ten years, to speak  
 of, (but the silver which came from *Wales*)  
 to the great damage of the Subject, and bé-  
 nefit of themselves : this will appeare by the  
 mint-books. And if some stricter Lawes be  
 not made than are yet in force, if silver  
 should not come from *Spaine*, the Gold-  
 smiths and Casheers would presently fall to  
 their old way of culling of the current silver-  
 moneys againe. All these severall offences  
 are



are humbly presented to this high Court to take into their just considerations, that the said offenders may be found out, and some strict Law made to deterre others from practising the like for the future.

And this Remonstrant humbly sheweth, that in the prosecution of this service, which so much concerneth the Common wealth, he hath expended 2000<sup>l</sup>. as before he hath declared.

His humble prayer is, that if this honourable House shall command him to proceede in this service for the Common-wealth, that out of the Fines of the Delinquents, which shall be proved to be offenders, he may be reimbursed the said severall summes he hath formerly laid out, and damage for his forbearance for his service formerly done about the transporters, and such other summes as he shall expend in the prosecution of this service to bring up witnesses and other necessary expences, out of the Fines of such as he shall bring

bring and prove to bee Delinquents.

In projects, as the Wine, Salt, Soape, Tobacco, and many of the like nature, where private men cozen the Common-wealth; yet all these offences this Declarant humbly conceiveth, put together, are not of so prejudicial consequence to the Common-wealth as the transporting of Gold and Silver, the culling and melting downe the current Silver money of this Kingdome, the selling of Silver and Gold above the price of the Mint: for in Projects one man cozeneth another, but the stock remaineth in the Kingdome; but for a man to act any of these foresaid offences, tendeth to the destruction of trade, robbing the Kingdome of the treasure: And to keep the Mint from coining, is as to let the water out of the Cysterne, and yet to let none in, and then the same will quickly be drawne dry.

It is to be feared, that the industry of many ages cannot replenish the Kingdome with

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so much Gold as hath been transported out of it since the first yeere of His Majesties Reigne; for it is an infallible rule, that where Gold and silver is over-valued, thither will it be transported by merchants and others, for it continually resorts where it is most made of; and if you seeke to raise it here, the remedy is worse than the disease, for then you take from the Gentry, and all settled Revenuers, as much of their meanes as you raise the current money; for if Gold should be raised in *England*, for example, the 20<sup>s</sup>. to 26<sup>s</sup>. as it is in *France*; either higher or lower; you should buy no more at your market for 26<sup>s</sup>. than you could before for your 20. and contrariwise, if your 20<sup>s</sup>. were but 14<sup>s</sup>. you should buy as much for your fourteene shillings, as when it passed at 20. so that whensoever money is raised, the losse falleth most upon the Nobility and Gentry and certain Revenuers, who lose so much out of their inheritance, which they have let out in lease, as mony raised.

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The Declarant humbly conceiveth, the easiest way to fill the Kingdome with Gold, which it wanteth, is, according to the patterne of the Statutes of 14 *Ed. 3. cap. 21.* in case of transporting of woolls, To enioyne the Merchants-Adventurers, Turkey-merchants, and exporters of Corne, Fish, or any manner of amunition, or the like; and Merchants that deale in other commodities of the Kingdome with other Countries, to bring into this Realme a proportion of gold upon the returne of the Merchandize : by which meanes the Common-wealth in time may recover this great mischief under which it suffers; and if not speedily stopped, there will not be left Coyne to maintaine Trade.

All merchants that trade for *Spain*, know, that when the West-India fleete commeth not into *Spaine*, the trade for that yeere is lost; and no money, no trade. If this be an infallible rule for *Spaine*, which suffers so much for the forbearance of bringing in of

treasure for one yeare, and is supplied the next out of the Indies, and till their Fleet come home, no dealing with Merchants; This Declarant doth humbly present, how much more it doth concerne this Kingdome, which hath no *West-Indies* to supply the Treasure transported, to provide and carefully keepe in the Kingdomes stock, which once transported, cannot be drawne back, but upon unreasonable tearmes; which will impoverish all the Gentry to an inestimable value; and as long as it remaineth out of the Kingdome, all trading and commerce decayeth, the subjects are unable to pay Subsidies and other duties, and it is one of the greatest mischiefes that can befall the Commonwealth.

And at this present in *France*, the native Merchants there match us with such a point of policy, that it would be hard for our merchants to be master of; for since the raising of our 20<sup>s</sup> peece to 26<sup>s</sup> there, this Declarant hum-

humbly desireth it may be taken into consideration, how they have advanced the price of their commodities according to their advanced moneys, to the full summe of 6<sup>s</sup> in the pound more then they were before : and as for Wines of the growth of *France*, they are so deare, that they cost the Merchants there above 30 in the hundred, more then they did before Gold was raised; and yet our cloth and other commodities are little raised there : by which means most of the Wines, and Linnen, both cut-work and black bone-lace, and other such like commodities in *France*, are imported into this Kingdome, only in returne of Gold transported for *France*: The like those of *Flanders* have filled *England* with Thred, cut-works and *Flanders*-laces, both Silke and Thred, and many other unnecessary commodities, which for the most part are stollen in without paying of custome, and drains the Kingdome of its money both in City and County, most of

the said commodities being bought in *France* and *Flanders*, with the Gold transported out of this Kingdome, to the value of many hundred thousand pounds; most of the commodities which have been returned from *France* and *Flanders* for our Gold, being utterly useles in a thriving Common-wealth. And to give a stop to these mischiefs, will require great & sound deliberation, for coyne is the treasure of the Kingdome and publique measure of all commerce, and the vitall spirits of all trade in the Kingdome, and therefore ought tenderly to be preserved.

It is recorded, that one of the greatest workes Queene *Elizabeth* did for this Kingdome, was the reducing of the moneys, when they were embased, to Sterling: and doubtlesse it is as great a benefit to settle a Law for the bringing in of gold for exportation of some commodities, to replenish that losse which the Common-wealth hath received by exportation thereof.

All



All men know that no great designe can be done without money, in Common-wealth or Kingdome: which made the French King lately, when the warres were between *Spaine* and them, to set such a rate upon Gold, that they drained all Christendome of gold; and it is beleev'd, they doe esteeme (having most of the gold of Christendome in their Kingdome) the possession of it to be as good a strength as any amunition they can have; for it makes them capable of any great action. All Merchants, and others, that have been at *Paris*, know, what great summes are taken up there, and in other places of *France*, by the King, of Bankers and others, for his warres; which is raised with that expedition and ease as is incredible, but to those that know it; and most of the payments paid in gold, which is a great benefit saving convoy, one waggon of Gold being as much in value as fifteen in Silver, which, as that Kingdomes businesse stands, saves much in the portage; and

and if they had not drawn in our gold, they could not have done those great businesses as they have done; and they found it to be true, that it was one great point of putting the Kingdome into a posture of defence, by filling it full of treasure: the consideration of it, this Remonstrant humbly leaves to this House.

Now that generall Lawes and Statutes from time to time have provided against transporting of gold, or melting down the current coyne, and buying silver and gold at above the price of the Mint, appeareth by Statutes 9 *Ed. 3.* both forbidding the transporting of the gold of the Kingdome, and the melting down the current silver coynes, by Gold-smiths or others, into plate.

*Stat. 14. Rich. 2. cap. 12.* Commissions made through the Realme, for to enquire of such as had conveyed the money of *England* out of the Kingdome, to the prejudice and damage of the King and Realme.

*Stat.*

*Stat. 17. Ric. 2. cap. 1.* There shall be no melting of the current money to make any thing, by Gold-smiths or others, upon paine of forfeiture.

*2 Hen. 4. cap. 4.* No person to transport gold or silver, either in coyne or bullion, upon paine of forfeiting as much as they might.

*4 Hen. 4. cap. 10.* No Gold-smith or other person to melt downe the current silver coynes of the Kingdome, upon paine of forfeiting foure times the value.

*2 Hen. 5. cap. 1.* All Statutes heretofore made touching the good and lawfull government of Gold and Silver, and not repealed, to be in force.

*2 Hen. 6. cap. 6.* Upon a grievous complaint made in Parliament, that great summes of Gold and Silver were transported into *Flanders* and *Burdeaux* out of this Kingdome, it was ordered and enacted, that no Gold or Silver should bee transported out of the Realm.

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And

And because it is supposed, that the money of Gold is transported by Merchants-aliens, It is ordained, that the Merchants-aliens shall finde securitie with sureties in the *Chancery*, that they shall not transport gold or moneys out of the Kingdome, upon paine of forfeiting the sum or the value; and if any doe contrary, and that duly proved, and he so doing be gone over Sea, then his pledges shall pay the King his said forfeiture; whereof he that the same espied, and thereof gave notice to the Treasurer or the Kings Councell, shall have the fourth part.

2 *Hen.6. cap. 12.* To the intent that more mony be brought into the Mint, It is ordained, that neither the Master of the Mint, nor Changer for the time being, neither sell nor cause to be sold, nor alien to no other use, but apply the same wholly to coyne, according to the tenure of the Indenture made betwixt the King, and Master of the Mint.

4 *Hen.*

4 *Hen. 7. cap. 13.* Item, Where in a Parliament begun and holden at *Westminster* the 16 of January, the 17 of *Ed. 4.* No person to carry Gold or Silver either in Bullion or coyn, nor Jewels of gold, but such persons as be dispensed with by the Statute of *Hen. 4.* upon paine of felonie, to be heard and determined as other felonie is; the which Statute to endure from the feast of Easter the 18 of *Ed. 4.* unto the end of seven yeares next ensuing: Since the which 7 yeares expired, the Gold and Silver coyne of this Realme hath and daily is conveyed into *Flanders*, *Normandy*, *Britany*, *Ireland*, and other parts beyond the Seas, as well by Merchants-strangers as by Denisons, to the great impoverishing of the Realme, and greater is like to be, without remedy thereof hastily provided. The King our Sovereigne Lord, the premises considered, by the advice of his Lords Spirituall and Temporall, and the prayers of the Commons in the said Parliament assembled

bled, and by the authority of rhe same, have ordained and enacted and established, That the said Statute made in the 16 yeare of *Ed. 4.* be and stand a Statute good and effectuell, with all the premises in the same observed and kept and put in due execution, from the feast of the Purification of our Lady, which shall be in the yeare of our Lord 1489. to endure to the end of 20 years next ensuing.

1 *Hen. 8. cap. 13.* An Act made, that whosoever shall carry any gold or silver or jewels out of the Realme, shall forfeit double the value, the one halfe to him that shall seize it, or therefore sue by action of debt at the Common Law. This Act to endure to the next Parliament.

5 and 6 *Ed. 6. cap. 19.* An act touching the exchange of gold and silver, that whosoever gives more for gold and silver then it is or shall be declared by the Kings Proclamation, shall suffer imprisonment by the space of  
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of one year, and make fine at the Kings pleasure, the one moiety to His Majesty, the other moiety to be to the party that seizeth the same, or will sue for it by Bill, Plaint, or Information or otherwise.

1. A Proclamation against giving for light Gold more then is current, 21<sup>o</sup> *July*, 17<sup>o</sup> *Jac*<sup>i</sup>.

2. A Proclamation against melting English money, 18<sup>o</sup> *Maii*. 9<sup>o</sup> *Jac*<sup>i</sup>.

3. A Proclamation against buying and selling Gold and Silver, at higher prices then the Mint, 14<sup>o</sup> *Maii*. 10<sup>o</sup> *Jac*<sup>i</sup>.

4. A Proclamation against transporting of Gold, 23<sup>o</sup> *Maii*. 10<sup>o</sup> *Jac*<sup>i</sup>.

5. A Proclamation against profit for Gold and Silver, and melting English money for Plate; Waste in Gold and Silver, 4<sup>o</sup> *Feb*<sup>i</sup>. 19<sup>o</sup> *Jac*<sup>i</sup>.

6. A Proclamation against transporting Gold and Silver, and melting down the current coynes of the kingdom, 25<sup>o</sup> *Maii*. 3<sup>o</sup> *Car*<sup>i</sup>.



From all which Statutes and provisions it may be gathered, that the current money and Bullion of the kingdome, is the Subjects, only to use between man and man, but not to abuse: for no man by the Law can buy or sell them by way of Merchandize at higher rates than they are Proclamed; if he do, he is finable by the Law: he that washeth, clippeth or lesseneth the current coins, commits treason: He that exports the treasure of the kingdom, either in Bullion or current Coyn, being taken, loseth them: he that melts downe the current Gold or Silver of the kingdom for plate or other manufactures, commits a forfeiture; and transporting of Treasure hath formerly been made felony, as by the severall Statutes and Lawes to this purpose appeareth.

By these and divers other Lawes and Statutes, His Majesties predecessors have endeavoured the retention and preservation of the Coine and Treasures within this Kingdome, but could hitherto never effect it.

And

And of late, the easie escape of Delinquents for these offences, which have been taken, hath given the boldnesse to offenders to goe on : and Time , the truest Schoole-master, hath taught all ages to know, that little penalties could yet never interpose betwixt the Merchant and his profit.

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*FINIS.*

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